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SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR
NORTHERN IRELAND

The Rt Hon Lord Young of Graffham
Secretary of State
Department of Employment
Caxton House
Tothill Street
LONDON
SW1H 9NA

NISN

6 May 1986

Dear Secretary of State

Thank you for copying to me your minute of 21 March to the Prime Minister about your proposed new budget measures to promote enterprise and employment.

As you know Northern Ireland has arrangements which parallel those in Great Britain in the fields to which you refer and your proposals are therefore of much interest here.

I endorse your view of the importance of the various enterprise and employment measures being seen as being operated within a coherent strategy. I also agree with you on the importance of the three objectives which you mention. I see it as important that Northern Ireland is fully in step with the rest of the United Kingdom on such matters.

You will be interested to know that Rhodes Boyson announced on 26 March a package of proposals for Northern Ireland corresponding to the employment measures announced in the budget. We propose to issue a publication similar to "Action for Jobs" as soon as can be arranged.

We are already involved or in touch with counterparts about a number of the initiatives to which you refer. On De-regulation for example officials have been closely monitoring the progress of the GB initiative and have taken steps to ensure that the same general momentum and direction is achieved in Northern Ireland whilst taking account of any distinctive local circumstances.

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However all your proposals are of much interest to us and I should be grateful for your help in ensuring that we are kept in touch with developments concerning them.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister, Cabinet colleagues and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely
Brian Foster

for

TK

(approved by the
Secretary of State
and signed in his
absence in Northern Ireland)

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MANPOWER: SGMS PTB

